

June 23, 2014

The Honorable Lamar Smith, Chairman  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C 20515

Dear Chairman Smith,

We write in support of the principles contained in H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act. This legislation supports a basic tenet: the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations should be based on transparent and reproducible science.

Potentially costly regulations should be grounded in data and analyses that are available to academic, government, and independent scientists. Pushing EPA to ensure that the data, models, and methods it relies on are open to public and scientific scrutiny will make the Agency's regulations more accountable, credible, and enforceable.

While we hail from a variety of scientific and academic disciplines, we agree that the provisions of this legislation could be satisfied by EPA without difficulty. The bill is also consistent with recent trends toward access among major scientific journals across these fields. Transparency and reproducibility in EPA regulatory science will encourage more robust analysis of findings by investigators with diverse perspectives while allowing the Agency to base its policy decisions on the best available science. Complying with H.R. 4012 can be accomplished without imposing unnecessary burdens, discouraging research, or raising confidentiality concerns. Across different disciplines, numerous statistical and technical approaches exist to protect any sensitive information.

We support passage of this legislation and thank your Committee for its leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

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cc: Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space, and  
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